

Old Testament Stories

“NOAH & THE ARK”

Genesis 5:28 - 9:17

☞ **What would you like to praise God for today?**

☞ **Pray for God’s guidance as you study**

1. If you were a zoo keeper, what animals would you enjoy visiting every day?

Which animals would you sooner NOT keep?

2. Apart from the obscurity of some details in Gen. 6:1-5, what do you find most disturbing about the description of human corruption in verse 5? Why?

3. Why do you think God feels the way He does about human wickedness (v. 6)?

4. Why do you think God went to so much trouble to see that the animals were saved?

5. Covenants at this time often resembled a contract between a king and his subjects in which sovereign protection is offered in exchange for faithful obedience. How is God’s covenant with Noah before the flood (6:13-7:5) like that?

6. What do you think was the hardest thing Noah faced in building the ark:

- designing it and getting all the materials?
- enduring the community’s ridicule?
- convincing his family this was God’s idea?
- trusting God to come through according to plan?
- nothing because God made everything easy?

7. Read Heb. 11:7 and 2 Peter 2:5. How does Noah persevere when the going gets rough?

8. Read Gen. 8:21-22, 9:7-17 and Isaiah 54:9. According to this Bible passage, what is the significance of a rainbow?

Read Ezekiel 1: 25-28 and Revelation 10:1. Why is the rainbow part of the Bible's description of God?

9. Read 1 Peter 3:17-22. What connections did Jesus' ministry have with the story of Noah?

How do Noah and the Ark symbolize baptism in the Christian experience?

10. What parallels do you see between Noah's society and our own?

11. Read Matthew 24:36-41. What lessons for today does Jesus teach from the experience of Noah?

12. Jesus gives Christians 3 specific directives for life in our current "Noah-like" society. Drawing from Matthew 24:42-46 how can we follow Noah's example of faith even today?

Matthew 24:42

Matthew 24: 44

Matthew 24:46

Prayer: For one another

LIFE GROUPS

A safe place to build friendships and grow spiritually.

- L** ♦ Learn..... applying Biblical truth for everyday living
- I** ♦ Invite.....welcoming others to our fellowship
- F** ♦ Fellowship.....nurturing Christ centered caring relationships
- E** ♦ Evangelism..... reaching others with the hope of Christ

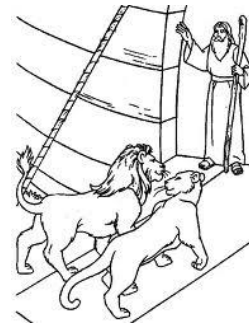


DID YOU KNOW?

- The Ark could have measured from 437 to 512 feet in length! It was not until the late 19th century that a ship anywhere near this size was built. This was obviously not the backyard effort of a primitive river-dweller! The Designer was God Himself.

- The Ark had a ratio (length X width X height) of 30 X 5 X 3. According to ship-builders, this ratio represents an advanced knowledge of ship-building since it is the optimum design for stability in rough seas. The Ark, as designed by God, was virtually impossible to capsize! It would have to have been tilted over 90 degrees in order to capsize.

- The Ark would have had an internal volume of the equivalent railroad boxcars. If the average sized animal was the size of means the Ark could hold over 125,000 sheep.



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a sheep it

- Noah was instructed to bring mated pairs of every kind of animal and every kind of creature that moves along the specifically he is instructed to bring seven mated pairs (14) and seven pairs of all birds.

bird, every kind
ground. More
clean animals

- Only air-breathing animals needed to be included on the Ark. Authorities on taxonomy est. that there are less than 18,000 species of mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians living in the world today. We might double this to allow for extinct species. This would give us 36,000 species times 2 or 72,000 animals. Adding for the clean animals, we might say there were as many as 75,000 animals. The Ark could accommodate up to 125,000 sheep, but most animals are smaller than a common house cat. Therefore, there was plenty of space for the preservation of animal life. However, some creationists believe there may have been far fewer animals if Noah only took on board pairs of “kinds” as the word is used in Gen. 1. God created these “kinds” with potential for rich genetic diversity. For instance, at the time of Christ there existed only two types of dogs. All the diversity we see in the modern breeds of dogs came from these two!

- The Ark of Noah is a rich picture of the salvation provided by Christ who today is our Ark of safety.

Points of comparison include:

1. God taking the initiative in sparing Noah and his family. Read Rom. 5:8
 2. There was only one door to enter into the Ark as there is only one way to God and this is through Christ Jesus. Read John 10:7 and Acts 4:12.
- Gen. 6:1-4 is one of the most puzzling passages in the Bible. The major questions of interpretation are: Who are the “daughters of men”, the “sons of god”, the “Nephilim” and the “heroes of old”? The strongest explanation is that angels (spirit beings) left their proper spheres (the spirit world) took on bodies of men and cohabited with the daughters of men. This unholy union threatened to destroy the Seed through which the Deliverer would come. Apparently the “nephilim” were some sort of hybrid. As a result the earth was filled with violence.

Supportive arguments:

1. It explains the severity of the flood.
2. It agrees nicely with the theme of Genesis which demonstrates the sovereignty of God in preserving and purifying “the seed” as Satan tries to corrupt and destroy it. The marriage of fallen angels to daughters of men somehow corrupted the seed of man, perhaps causing some kind of genetic mutation. Noah and his family were chosen perhaps because their blood-line remained untouched.
3. It brings understanding to a difficult passage in 1 Peter 3:18-20 concerning “spirits in prison”
4. The Bible refers to “sons of god” as meaning angels (See Job 1:6, 2:1, 38:7, Ps. 29:1, 89:6, Dan 3:25)
5. Angels are not sexless. In fact they are referred to as being male (ex. Michael and Gabriel) and female (see Zech. 5:9-11).
6. There is strong extra-Biblical support from ancient myths and the pseudopigraphic books of Enoch and the book of Jubilees.
7. This was the universal interpretation of the early church fathers until the 5th century.

Christian Information Ministries: Outline #27